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REGION-20 800 MHZ PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**In the Matter of)
)
The Development of Operational,)
Technical and Spectrum Requirements)
For Meeting Federal, State and Local)
Public Safety Agency Communications)
Requirements Through the Year 2010)**

WT Docket No. 96-86

COMMENTS

Submitted by:

**Region-20 800 MHz Public Safety Review Committee
Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee
Dr. Michael C. Trahos, D.O., NCE, CET - Chairman
4600 King Street, Suite 6K
Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1249**

January 19, 1999.

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4600 King Street, Suite 6K
Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1249

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Before the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) is a **Third Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NOTICE)** concerning multiple proposals relating to public safety communications in the 764-776/794-806 MHz band (700 MHz band).

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2. Pursuant to the authority given by the Commission under the *NPSPAC Report and Order*¹, the Region-20 800 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee was created to address the future communications needs and concerns of the PSRS users for Region-20. The obligations of that Committee included the submission to the Commission of a Region-20 800 MHz Public Safety Radio Communications Plan (Region-20 800 MHz Plan)² and establishment of a Region-20 800 MHz Public Safety Review Committee (Committee) to oversee its implementation.

3. This Committee, representing the PSRS/governmental constituents for Region-20, hereby submits the following **COMMENTS** in response to this **NOTICE**, addressing those issues of concern and their effects upon Region-20 and its constituency.

1 REPORT AND ORDER, General Docket No. 87-112, FCC 87-359, November 24, 1987, 3 FCC Rcd, at 905, Para. 4 (*NPSPAC Report and Order*).

2 WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA - REGION-20, General Docket No. 90-7, DA 90-28, January 17, 1990.

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II.

COMMENTS

A. Reimbursement of RPC Administrative Costs

4. Region-20 concurs with the Commission's proposal of retaining the existing regional planning committees (RPCs) and having them administer the 8.8 MHz of reserved spectrum.³ However, throughout this **NOTICE**, the Commission has failed to recognize that the benefits provided by the RPCs of continuity, expertise and the minimizing of administrative burden upon the end users of this spectrum⁴ does not come without a price!

5. For the past 10 years many members of Region-20, serving on the various committees needed to allocate the 821-824/866-869 MHz band (800 MHz band), have provided legal & technical expertise and administrative services without financial compensation. Furthermore, and in many instances, these services have been provided at a significant loss of individual financial income revenue.

6. Region-20 firmly believes that the Commission must permit the RPCs to directly and separately obtain reimbursement for its administrative costs, independent of the license processing fees assessed by the designated Public Safety Pool Frequency Coordinator(s), from each and every future 700 MHz and 800 MHz band applicant. Commission rejection of allowing RPCs to recoup their administrative costs on a "not-for-profit" basis will result in decrease willingness, on the part of the public safety community, to serve on these enormously time consuming and personally financially burdensome committees.

3 THIRD NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING, WT Docket No. 96-86, FCC 98-191, at Para. 173.

4 Ibid at Para 171.

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E. 806-821 MHz Public Safety Interoperability & Transition to 12.5 KHz Channels

7. The Commission seeks comment regarding interoperability below 512 MHz.

However, there also exists the unaddressed need for interoperability by public safety entities operating solely in the 806-821 MHz (806 MHz) band. But before any consideration can be given towards the designation of interoperability channels at 806 MHz, Region-20 believes there should be a gradual mandatory transition to 12.5 KHz channels with the Commission permitting existing 806 MHz band public safety users to split their existing 25 KHz channels to allow maximum utilization of their existing license authorizations.

8. Region-20 strongly urges the Commission adopt rules that permit current and future 806 MHz public safety licensees to split their existing 25 KHz authorizations into 12.5 KHz channels utilizing 11.25 KHz bandwidth authorized equipment with emission masks pursuant to 47 CFR 90.210(d). So long as equipment authorized to operate with a bandwidth of 11.25 KHz maintained emission masks pursuant to 47 CFR 90.210(d), then existing 806 MHz licensees could safely split their existing 25 KHz channels and cause no harmful interference to adjacent licensees. In so doing, the Commission would double the capacity of existing 806 MHz public safety licensees, thereby decreasing their demand for additional spectrum in the 700 MHz band.

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III.

CONCLUSION

9. Region-20 hereby submits the preceding constructive **COMMENTS** in response to this **NOTICE**. Incorporation of the principles expressed *supra* into the Second Report and Order to this proceeding would be appreciated by this Committee and its constituency, and is in the *public interest*.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Michael C. Trahos, D.O., NCE, CET
Chairman - Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee
Region-20 800 MHz Public Safety RPRC

MCT/mct